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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Research and Reports

AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GEOGRAPHIC STUDIES  
ON SELECTED AREAS OF THE USSR  
(CIA/RR IP-262)

W A R N I N G

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March 1952

Geographic Division

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AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GEOGRAPHIC STUDIES  
ON SELECTED AREAS OF THE USSR

This bibliography lists and evaluates briefly the available geographic studies completed or in preparation by US Government agencies for the following seven areas of the USSR: (1) Murmanskaya Oblast, (2) Karelo-Finnish SSR, (3) the Baltic coasts of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, (4) Brestskaya Oblast, (5) the Black Sea coasts of the Ukrainian SSR, Krasnodarskiy Kray, and Georgian SSR, (6) Primorskiy Kray, and (7) the Chukotsk Peninsula eastward from 180°E. Emphasis is placed principally upon the physical aspects of non-urban, coastal, and border areas, whether discussed individually or in combination.

The survey upon which the following bibliography is based included those Government offices that were known to have undertaken or to be undertaking geographic research on the USSR. The following organizations were consulted:

Technical Branch, Production Division, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2.

Engineer Strategic Intelligence Division, Army Map Service.

Beach Erosion Board, Office of the Chief of Engineers, US Army.

Environmental Protection Section, Office of the Quartermaster General, US Army.

Reconnaissance Branch, Directorate of Intelligence, Headquarters, US Air Force.

G-2 Section, Division of Plans and Policies, Headquarters, US Marine Corps.

Amphibious Unit, Intelligence Branch, Office of Naval Intelligence.

Map and Photo Unit, Intelligence Branch, Office of Naval Intelligence.

Geographic Unit, Intelligence Branch, Office of Naval Intelligence.

Military Geology Branch, US Geological Survey.

The CIA is not included in the survey except in cases where the agency served as coordinator for studies prepared jointly by several Government organizations or prepared translations of foreign publications.

The US Navy Hydrographic Office, Photo Interpretation Center, and Central Files of the Office of Naval Intelligence were not consulted because operational clearance for interviewing the appropriate personnel was received too late to be acted upon. Any pertinent material that these offices may have will be submitted later.

From previous knowledge of the character of their geographic research, it was considered unnecessary to consult the following organizations in connection with the survey:

Division of Research for USSR and Eastern Europe, OIR,  
Department of State.

Office of International Trade, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic  
Commerce, Department of Commerce.

Division of Soil Survey, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils,  
and Agricultural Engineering, Department of Agriculture.

Earth Sciences Branch, Office of Naval Research.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, Department of Agriculture.

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Practically no comprehensive, collated geographic studies have been made for any one of the seven areas. In general, detailed studies of areas of such limited extent are prepared by intelligence agencies only upon specific request. At present, no Government agency is planning to undertake an areal geographic study of any one of the seven areas. The few studies on the USSR prepared by offices within agencies such as the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Commerce are directed in most cases towards a specific subject that concerns the Soviet Union as a whole.

The available sources of information fall into four categories: (1) basic intelligence studies of the USSR for strategic and high-level operational planning, (2) a few studies of specific areas, (3) sailing directions and pilots, and (4) miscellaneous materials, including translations. The basic studies are concise, readily obtainable digests of the best information available to intelligence agencies as of the date of preparation. British Admiralty Pilots are included for those coasts for which the US Navy Hydrographic Office has not published Sailing Directions because of the adequacy of the British coverage.

In the bibliography the source materials are listed by type of publication. For data on any specific area the following table indicates the numbers of the sources from which information can be obtained.

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<u>Areas</u>	<u>Basic Intelligence Studies</u>	<u>Regional Studies</u>	<u>Sailing Directions</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Studies Including Translations</u>
Murmanskaya Oblast	1, 5	7, 10	18	19
Karelo-Finnish SSR	1, 5	7	18	19
Baltic Coasts of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania	1, 5	9	15	--
Brestskaya Oblast	1, 5	--	--	--
Black Sea Coast of the Ukrainian SSR, Krasnodarskiy Kray, and Georgian SSR	1, 2, 5	6	16	20, 21, 24
Primorskiy Kray	3, 4, 5	--	12, 13, 17	22
Chukotsk Peninsula	4, 5	8	11, 12, 14	23

Basic Intelligence Studies:

1. Joint Army-Navy Intelligence Study 40, European U.S.S.R.; Central Intelligence Agency, no publication date, information as of 1946-47; CIA Library Call No. JANIS-40 (Confidential).

Information on the physical characteristics of Murmanskaya Oblast, Karelo-Finnish SSR, the Baltic Sea coastal areas of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, the Black Sea coastal area of the Ukrainian SSR, and with difficulty, Brestskaya Oblast can be obtained from:

Chapter II, Military Geography  
 Chapter III, Oceanography  
 Chapter IV, Coasts and Landing Beaches  
 Chapter V, Climate and Weather

2. Joint Army-Navy Intelligence Study 41, U.S.S.R. -- The Caucasus; Central Intelligence Agency, no publication date, information as of 1946-48; CIA Library Call No. JANIS-41 (Confidential).

Material for a description of the physical geography of the Black Sea coastal area of Krasnodarskiy Kray and Georgian SSR can be extracted from Chapters II, III, IV, and V. See Item 1 for Chapter titles.

3. Joint Army-Navy Intelligence Study 73, Southeastern Siberia; Joint Chiefs of Staff, February 1945; CIA Library Call No. JANIS-73 (Confidential).

A description of the physical geography of Primorskiy Kray can be extracted from Chapters II, III, IV, and V. See Item 1.

4. National Intelligence Survey No. 26, Part IV, Central and Eastern Siberia, Chapter II, "Military Geography"; Central Intelligence Agency, 1949; CIA Library Call No. NIS-26-IV (Secret).

Information on the physical characteristics of Chukotsk Peninsula and Primorskiy Kray can be obtained from the following sections:

- Section 21, Oceanography
- Section 22, Coasts and Landing Beaches
- Section 23, Weather and Climate
- Section 24, Terrain of the NIS Area as a Whole
- Section 26, Descriptive Analysis of Military Regions

5. Strategic Intelligence Digest, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Vol. I; Central Intelligence Agency, 1948; CIA Call No. SID-USSR, Vol. I (Secret).

Since the discussion of physical features is focused on very broad regions and is presented in a highly generalized fashion, difficulty would be encountered in attempting to extract specific data for any one of the seven specified areas. Physical features are discussed in Chapter I, "Topographic."

Regional Studies:

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10. The Climate of the Kola Peninsula; Office of the Quartermaster General, Environmental Protection Section, no date; available from issuing authority and in Analysis Branch, Geographic Division, CIA (Unclassified).

This 34-page report is a condensation of two comprehensive Russian articles on the climate of the Kola Peninsula (Murmanskaya Oblast). The report was prepared by a climatologist who is familiar with Russian climatic concepts and terminology. Included in the report are adequately detailed discussions of temperature, humidity, precipitation, thunderstorm activity, and wind.

Sailing Directions and Pilots:

11. Sailing Directions for the East Coast of Siberia, HO Publication No. 122A; US Navy Hydrographic Office, 1947; in CIA Map Library and HO Library (Unclassified).

The volume cited is one of a series of comprehensive and reliable Sailing Directions that supplement nautical charts issued by the Hydrographic Office. It supplies descriptions of coastlines, harbors, dangers, aids, and port facilities, as well as other data that cannot be represented adequately on charts. In each volume the coastline is divided into small sectors, which are described individually on the basis of the topics listed. Supplements to the Sailing Directions, giving corrections and more recent information, are issued when sufficient new data become available.

The volume for the east coast of Siberia covers the coast from Cape Otto Schmidt (68°55'N - 179°24'W) southward around the Chukotsk Peninsula to Sakhalin Gulf (53°45'N - 141°30'E).

12. Sailing Directions for Siberia and Chosen, HO Publication No. 122; US Navy Hydrographic Office, 1932; in CIA Map Library and HO Library (Unclassified).

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Coverage of the coasts of the Chukotsk Peninsula and Primorskiy Kray are included in this volume. For type of information given see Item 11.

13. Sailing Directions for the Southwest Coast of Siberia and Korea, HO Publication No. 122B; US Navy Hydrographic Office, 1947; in CIA Map Library and HO Library (Unclassified).

Coverage of the coastline of Primorskiy Kray is included in this volume. See Item 11 for a description of the type of information given.

14. Translation of Russian Sailing Directions for the Chukotsk Sea; US Navy Hydrographic Office, no date; in CIA Map Library and HO Library (Unclassified).

This volume covers the coasts of the Chukotsk Sea and the Bering Strait. The information presented is similar in scope and reliability to that in US Navy Sailing Directions (see Item 11). The original, of which this is a translation, is entitled Lotsiya Chukotskogo Morya (Pilot of the Chukotsk Sea), published in 1938 by the Hydrographic Administration of R.K.K.F. and the Hydrographic Administration of the Principal Administration for the Northern Sea Route. The Russian original is also available.

15. Baltic Pilot, Vol. III; British Admiralty, Hydrographic Department, 1937; in CIA Map Library and HO Library (Unclassified).

The British Admiralty Pilots contain information of the same type and reliability as the Sailing Directions of the US Navy Hydrographic Office (see Item 11). Included in this volume is coverage of the northern shoreline of Estonia, fronting on the Gulf of Finland.

16. The Black Sea Pilot; British Admiralty, Hydrographic Department, 1942; in CIA Map Library and HO Library (Unclassified).

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Descriptions of the northern coast of the Black Sea and the shoreline of the Sea of Azov are included in this volume. In content and reliability it is similar to Item 11.

17. South and East Coasts of Korea, East Coast of Siberia, and Sea of Okhotsk Pilot; British Admiralty, Hydrographic Department, 1937; in CIA Map Library and HO Library (Unclassified).

The coast of Primorskiy Kray is included in this volume, which is similar to Item 11.

18. White Sea Pilot; British Admiralty, Hydrographic Department, 1946; in CIA Map Library and HO Library (Unclassified).

Coverage of the coastlines of the Murmanskaya Oblast and the Karelo-Finnish SSR is included in this volume, which is similar to Item 11.

19. Military-Geographic Data on European Russia: Karelia and Kola, FDD 119; translation by Foreign Documents Division, CIA, 15 March 1948; CIA Library Call No. 170278 (Restricted).

The report is divided into two parts, one giving a general survey of the physical and cultural characteristics of the entire area of the Karelo-Finnish SSR and the Murmanskaya Oblast as a whole and the other giving descriptions of individual regions within the larger area. The principal emphasis is upon the physical elements, particularly terrain. The physical descriptions are still of value, but the cultural information is out of date.

This report is an extract translation of a German Mil-Geo report entitled Militärgeographische Angaben über das Europäische Russland: Karelian und Kola, published in June 1941 by the Map and Survey Branch of the German Army General Staff.

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20. Military-Geographic Data on European Russia: the Ukraine, the Moldavian SSR and the Crimea, FDD 137, translation by Foreign Documents Division, CIA, 12 April 1948; CIA Library Call No. 544625 (Restricted).

The report includes a general survey of the physical and cultural features of the Ukraine, Moldavian SSR, and Krymskaya Oblast (Crimea), and a description of individual subdivisions within the above areas. Two of these individual sectors are on the coast of the Black Sea. In the discussion of these coastal regions, the emphasis is placed primarily upon character of terrain. The discussion of physical features compares favorably with JANIS-40, but cultural information is out of date.

The report is an extract translation of a German Mil-Geo report entitled Militärgeographische Angaben über das Europäische Russland; Ukraine mit Moldaurepublik und Krim, published in September 1941 by the Map and Survey Branch of the German Army General Staff.

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